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4 August 1953

[REDACTED]  
Request for Information on East Germany

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In response to the interest which I understand the Board has expressed on developments in East Germany, [REDACTED]

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Press reports on new wave of popular resistance in East Germany in the wake of the regime's effort to check Berlin food distribution program show marked differences and inconsistencies. Can you give us on telecon Friday 7 August a roundup of confirmed information on these developments including answers to following: Where and on what scale did demonstrations occur over the last week-end in protest of the denial of rail transport to Berlin? Was there violence, and if so, were Soviet troops or only Vopos used? What is the extent of slowdowns and absenteeism in factories and are these increasing? Do you estimate that if food distribution continues renewed outbreaks are likely in East Germany and East Berlin? Do you think Soviets are likely to close the sector borders again?

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cc: [REDACTED] ✓

DOCUMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☒   
☐ DECLASSIFIED  
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S G  
NEXT REVIEW DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
AUTH: HR 70-2  
DATE: 6 FEB 81 REVIEWER: 018557